

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

By this response, claims 1, 4-6, 15, 16 and 20-26 are unchanged and new claim 27 is added. Claims 2, 3 and 10-14 were previously canceled and claims 7-9 and 17-19 were previously withdrawn.

Reference is made to the request for continued examination filed April 14, 2011 for arguments regarding the allowability of claims 1, 4-6, 15, 16 and 20-26.

New claim 27 is patentable over Merkel and Hawighorst. Specifically, Merkel discloses a crank 12 that is joined to a base body 14 via a connecting layer 44 of zinc by assembly casting, see col. 3, lines 38-40 of US 6,802,102. Assembly casting is obviously a different process than press fitting. More importantly, the structure resulting from assembly casting is quite different than a press fit.

Hawighorst discloses a crank 24 and a spacer piece 40 that are both directly connected to an output shaft 22 by laser welds, see paragraphs 20 and 22 of US 2004/0163483. Laser welding is obviously a different process than press fitting. More importantly, the structure resulting from laser welding is quite different than a press fit.

Therefore, claim 27 is allowable over Merkel and Hawighorst, taken alone or in combination. Therefore, claims 1, 4-9 and 15-27 are allowable.

Reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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